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may be made to account for too much. Mr. Bridges has nothing to say concerning one striking characteristic of Milton's blank verse: that it is to be read and understood in the long sweep of whole sections. These blank-verse stanzas of Milton have been made the subject of minute examination by Professor Corson.

E. H. LEWIS

LEWIS INSTITUTE

Elements of Botany, by J. Y. BERGEN, A.M., Instructor in biology, English High School, Boston. Ginn & Co., 1896. 275 + lvii pages. \$1.20.

THIS book is an expansion of the laboratory notes which have formed the basis of the author's instruction in the English High School, Boston, and as might be expected by those who know of Mr. Bergen's work in the Harvard Summer School, it is thorough, comprehensive, and very suggestive. It is intended as a text-book for class-room instruction; it is a laboratory manual and in Part II contains an analytical key and description of the commonest spring flowers found in the northern and eastern states. This part includes a description of 31 families, 77 genera, and 153 species. It might be criticised for omitting some species very common in this vicinity, *e. g.*, the wild hyacinth (*Camassia Fraseri*) and Phlox Pilosa and some species very common East and West, such as Yellow-eyed grass (*Hypoxis Erecta*), Spiderwort (*Tradescantia Virginica*) and Spice Bush (*Lindera Benzoin*) but probably no two botanists would agree upon the same list of 150 flowers commonest East and West. The pupil has, moreover, or should have, access always to *Gray's Manual* or *Wood's Class Book* if this smaller manual fails him. It is undoubtedly true that the old method of analysis and identification of a large number of species has been overdone, and that the better method is that of comparative study of the more important families as indicated by Spalding. Yet Mr. Bergen's book contains enough material to give the student the method of floral analysis which every student of botany should understand.

This book contains more distinct features than any elementary text book with which I am acquainted. Running through it without attempt at sharp divisions are directions for laboratory work of a morphological and physiological sort as well as directions for the study of gross and minute anatomy. This latter feature calls for the use of the

compound microscope in the hands of each student or each small group. The physiological experiments are 33 in number.

The author follows the plan of *Gray's Elements* both in dwelling very largely on phanerogamous plants and in his order of presentation of topics. He follows the cycle of development from seed and root through stem, bud, leaf, flower, and fruit back to seed again. The physiology and morphology of these organs are carefully presented. The minute anatomy and in fact the whole subject is illustrated by many diagrams and pictures.

The subject of fertilization and of the dependence of plants upon wind and animals is illustrated at much greater length than is usual in elementary books. The chapter on "The Struggle for Existence" is one of the most interesting in the book. It includes among other topics the following: weeds, their origin; the dispersal of seeds; destruction of plants by unfavorable climates, by other plants, by animals; adaptations to meet adverse conditions; how plants protect themselves. The study of a few types of "flowerless" plants is given after the study of the higher forms has been completed. These include protococcus, the yeast plant, black mould, pigeon weed, moss, and a fern.

Four useful appendices are given: (*a*) on the use of the compound microscope; (*b*) apparatus and reagents; (*c*) material for study; (*d*) list of reference books. "East of the hundredth *parallel*" on page v means, of course, east of the hundredth meridian.

R. H. CORNISH

THE MORGAN PARK ACADEMY
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Introduction to the Study of Latin Inscriptions. By JAMES C. EGBERT, JR., Ph.D., Adj. Professor of Latin, Columbia College. Pages 468. Price \$3.50. American Book Company.

THE cause of classical scholarship in America has been distinctly aided by the publication of Professor Egbert's excellent work on Latin Inscriptions. The book is a marked advance upon anything attempted hitherto on this subject in English. Its appearance at this time may well be taken as a practical illustration of the substantial progress that Latin studies have made in this country during the last decade. What-ever may be the outcome of the present transition period in educational